

Request for Continuing Examination of Appl. No. 09/291,227
Atty. Docket No. P-114
Reply to Office Action of December 29, 2003
Customer No. 27,752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A process for enhancing immune response of a companion animal consisting of a dog or cat which is subjected to ordinary conditions, said process comprising the step of feeding said animal in need of such treatment a diet containing an effective immune enhancing amount of lutein, wherein the diet contains from about 1 to about 50 mg/day of lutein for a time sufficient for said lutein to be absorbed by said animal.
3. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 in which said diet includes from about 2 to about 315 mg lutein per kg of diet.
4. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said companion animal is a dog.
5. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 4 in which said diet includes from about 5 to about 20 mg/day of lutein.
6. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said companion animal is a cat.
7. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 6 in which said diet includes from about 5 to about 10 mg/day of lutein.
8. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 in which said diet comprises about 20 to 40% crude protein, about 4 to 30% fat, and about 4 to 20% total dietary fiber.
9. (Currently amended) A process for increasing the lutein concentration in the circulating blood of a companion animal consisting of a dog or cat which is subjected to ordinary conditions, said process comprising the step of feeding said animal in need of such treatment a diet containing from about 1 to about 50 mg/day of lutein for a time sufficient for said lutein to be absorbed into the bloodstream of said animal.

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10. (Currently amended) A process for increasing immunoglobulin concentration in a companion animal consisting of a dog or cat which is subjected to ordinary conditions, said process comprising the step of feeding said animal in need of such treatment a diet containing an effective immunoglobulin increasing amount of lutein, wherein the diet contains from about 1 to about 50 mg/day of lutein for a time sufficient for said lutein to be absorbed into the bloodstream of the animal.

11. (Currently amended) A process for increasing lymphocyte cells in a companion animal consisting of a dog or cat which is subjected to ordinary conditions said process comprising the step of feeding said animal in need of such treatment a diet containing an effective lymphocyte increasing amount of lutein, wherein the diet contains from about 1 to about 50 mg/day of lutein for a time sufficient for said lutein to be absorbed into the bloodstream of the animal.